

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 4 and ending on page 1, line 8 with the following paragraph:

The invention relates to a crimp connector for electrical contacting an electrical conductor embedded in an insulating layer. The invention further relates to a method for electrical contacting an electrical conductor embedded in an insulating layer by means of a crimp connector.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 18 and ending on page 2, line 10 with the following paragraph:

The crimp connectors are commonly provided with corresponding piercing tines that are used as penetration connectors for contacting foil electrical conductors, such as flexible flat cables (FFC) or flexible printed circuit boards (FPC). An example of this type of crimp connector is shown in Fig. 16. The crimp connector of Fig. 16 has a base 108, which may be connected, for example, to a plug contact, and at least one piercing tine 104 that contacts an electrical conductor 122 of a flat conductor 124 by penetrating insulating material 120 provided thereon. The piercing tines 104 may be formed with a tapering, sharp-edge-type structure, so they cut into the electrical conductor 122 during assembly, as shown, for example, in US 4,082,402 (Kincaid et al), US 4,106,836 (Asick et al), US 4,270,828 (Thurston) and US 4,669,798 (Daum et al). During assembly, the piercing tines 104 are pressed downward with the aid of a suitable crimping tool in a direction of the electrical conductor 122 to penetrate the insulating material 120 and contact the electrical conductor 122.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 11 and ending on page 2, line 20 with the following paragraph:

US 3,715,457 (Teagno et al) and US 3,697,925 (Henschen) further teach the crimp connector with bent-up edges for providing strain relief in addition to the actual crimped contact. Additionally, US 3,937,403 (Lawson) and US 3,960,430 (Bunnell et al) teach contacting the electrical conductors embedded in the insulating material exclusively via contact projections ~~moulded~~ formed onto the base of the crimp connector. The piercing tines, thereby only mechanically fix the crimp connector to the flat conductor and do not penetrate the insulating material.

Please replace the two paragraphs beginning on page 4, line 4 and ending on page 4, line 25 with the following two paragraphs:

This and other objects are achieved by a crimp connector having a crimping region including a base having at least one contact strip and at least one piercing tine. The at least one contact strip has a tapered tip and is arranged on the base such that the tapered tip penetrates an insulating material of a conductor from a lower surface to contact an electrical conductor therein when crimped. The at least one piercing tine has a tapered end region and is arranged on the base such that the tapered end region penetrates the insulating material of the conductor from an upper surface to contact the electrical conductor therein when crimped.

This and other objects are further achieved by a method for electrical contacting at least one electrical conductor embedded in an insulating material. A conductor is positioned adjacent to a contact strip arranged on base of a crimp connector. A piercing tine arranged on the base so that the crimp connector is deformed to at least partially encircle the conductor. An upper

surface of the insulating material is penetrated with a tip of the piercing tine. A lower surface of the insulating material is penetrated with a tip of the contact strip. The respective tips of the piercing tine and the contact strip contact the electrical conductor.

Please replace the two paragraph beginning on page 6, line 22 and ending on page 7, line 18 with the following paragraph:

The crimp connector 100 has a base 108 provided with four elliptical orifices 112. Although the orifices 112 in the embodiment shown have an elliptical shape, the orifices 112 are not restricted to this shape and may be shaped in any other desired configuration, for example, the orifices 112 may be circular or rectangular. A contact strip 110 is ~~moulded~~formed on the base 108 and arranged around each of the elliptical orifices 112. As best shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the contact strips 110 have an approximately pyramid-shaped structure with a sharply tapering tip 116 in an end region.

Four piercing tines 104 are ~~moulded~~formed on the base 108 and extend from sides of the base 108. The piercing tines 104 have tapering end regions 106. Although in the embodiment shown all four piercing tines 104 are shaped identically, the piercing tines 104 may also be configured at different heights in order to be able to achieve different penetration depths, e.g., with multiple-layered wiring. For example, the piercing tines 104 located diagonally opposite one another may be of an identical shape. Additionally, although the number of piercing tines 104 in the embodiment shown is four, any number of piercing tines 104 may be used depending on the desired configuration of the crimp connector 100.

Please replace the two paragraphs beginning on page 7, line 22 and ending on page 9, line 5 with the following two paragraphs:

The assembly of the crimp connector 100 to a flat conductor 124 will now be described ~~with reference to Fig. 7~~in greater detail. The flat conductor 124 includes an electrical conductor 122 and insulating material 120, as shown in Fig. 7. The flat conductor 124 is positioned above the crimp connector 100 and pressed in direction 118, as shown in Fig. 4. With the aid of a suitable crimping tool, pressure is exerted in the direction 118 and onto the piercing tines 104 so that the piercing tines 104 bend in the shape of a semi-circle, as shown in Fig. 7. The piercing tines 104 are bent until end regions of the piercing tines 104 cut through the insulating material 120 and contact the electrical conductor 122. The pyramid-shaped configuration of the contact strips 110, in particular the ~~bevelled~~beveled outer flanks facing the piercing tines 104, guide the piercing tines 104 to promote arch-shaped bending. Simultaneously, the contact strips 110 penetrate the insulating material 120 from below and come into electrical contact with the electrical conductor 122. The tapering tips 116 allow for a considerable mechanical force to be exerted on the insulating material 120 of the flat conductor 124 when pressure is applied in the direction 118, so that the contact strips 110 cut through the insulating material 120 and the electrical conductor 122.

After penetration of the insulating material 120 by the tapering tips 116, the insulating material 120 hermetically seals against corrosive environmental influences around the piercing tines 104 and the contact strips 110. Further, because the end regions of the piercing tines 104 and the tapering tips 116 of the contact strips 110 are substantially opposite one another, a ~~favourable~~favorable mechanical force distribution takes place that securely holds the electrical conductor 122 even in rough environmental conditions. The electrical conductor 122 is thereby

securely clamped between the piercing tines 104 and the contact strips 110 without the insulating material 120 enclosed therebetween.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 3 and ending on page 10, line 12 with the following paragraph:

Figs. ~~12-15~~13 show a fourth embodiment of the crimp connector 100, and Figs. 14-15 show a fifth embodiment of the crimp connector 100. The fourth embodiment differs from the other embodiments in that in the fourth embodiment the contact strips 110 are formed by being individually bent-up from the base 108. A base line of the contact strips 110 may run either substantially transversely to a longitudinal axis of the crimp connector 100, as shown in Figs. 12 and 13, or, ~~as shown in Figs. 14 and 15,~~ parallel thereto, as shown in Figs. 14 and 15. In each case the tip 116 is configured for optimally contacting the electrical conductor 122.